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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/038,657	01/08/2002	Timothy E. Bennett	088305-0141	8992

7590 02/05/2007	EXAMINER	
William T. Ellis	WASEL, MOHAMED A	
Foley & Lardner		
Washington Harbour	ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500	2154	
Washington, DC 20007-5143		

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/05/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

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PTOL-90A (Rev. 10/06)

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address* --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>15 November 2006</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-22</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) <u>2-5,7-10 and 12-15</u> is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1,6,11 and 16-22</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of: .

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

Response to Amendment

This action is responsive to amendment filed on November 15, 2006. Claims 2-5, 7-10 and 12-15 have

been cancelled. Claims 1, 6, 11 and 18 have been amended. Claim 22 has been newly added. Claims 1,

6, 11 and 16-22 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness

rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art
> are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to
> a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be
> negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 6, 11 and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ricker

et al, (hereinafter "Ricker") US Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0049790 in view of Chen et al,

(hereinafter "Chen") US Patent Application Pub. No. 2002/0111964.

1.   As per claim 1, Ricker teaches a computer implemented method of automatically extracting

information from Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) documents or messages using an EDI system, to be

used in analysis of the EDI documents (*Paragraph [0012], [0046]*), comprising:

extracting segments, transaction sets, functional groups (*Page 10, Appendix Line 26*), and

attributes from an EDI document, as extracted data (*Paragraph [0048], [0075], Abstract*);

storing the extracted data in a memory in a hierarchical manner according to whether the

extracted data is segment data, transaction set data, functional group data, or attribute data (*Paragraph

[0075], [0096]*);

wherein at least one functional group is extracted (*Page 10, Appendix Line 26*) from the EDI

document and wherein at least one transaction set is extracted from the EDI document that is a part of

the at least one functional group, based on a linkage in the memory of the at least one transaction set to

the at least one functional group (*Paragraph [0059], [0081] ,[0096], [0098]*);

analyzing the EDI document based on the extracted data stored in the memory (*Paragraph [0043], [0046]*);

assigning an attribute to each of the extracted data stored in the memory and storing in the memory the assigning attributes and linking the assigned attributes to each of the extracted data stored in the memory wherein the at least one functional group and the at least one transaction set extracted from the EDI document are stored in the memory with a common attribute (*Paragraph [0059], [0075], [0096], [0099]*).

Ricker discloses representing any XML document as a tree structure and embedding all elements within the document with a master tag (*Paragraph [0059]*).

Ricker fails to explicitly teach storing the EDI document in the memory based on a hierarchical relationship between segments extracted from the EDI document and other of the extracted data of the EDI document stored in the memory.

However, Chen discloses storing the EDI document in the memory based on a hierarchical relationship between segments extracted from the EDI document and other of the extracted data of the EDI document stored in the memory (*Paragraph [0011], [0045]*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicants' invention to combine the teachings of Ricker and Chen because it provides an efficient way of retrieving data related to a given element within and EDI document based on the hierarchical relationship.

2.   Claims 6 and 11 are rejected under the same reasoning and rationale as claim 1.

3.   As per claim 16, Ricker fails to explicitly teach providing a graphical user interface to enable a user to select at least one attribute to be retrieved from the memory in order to create an EDI document, and to enable the user to select a particular document shell for which the data retrieved from the memory is to be inputted, extracting data from the memory based on the at least one attribute selected by the user and providing the extracted data into the particular document shell selected by the user, to provide the EDI document for the user on the graphical user interface to allow for further editing and updating of the EDI document by the user.

However, Chen discloses providing a graphical user interface memory (*Paragraph [0009]*) to enable a user to select at least one attribute to be retrieved from the memory in order to create an EDI document, and to enable the user to select a particular document shell for which the data retrieved from the memory is to be inputted, extracting data from the memory based on the at least one attribute selected by the user memory (*Abstract*) and providing the extracted data into the particular document shell selected by the user, to provide the EDI document for the user on the graphical user interface to allow for further editing and updating of the EDI document by the user memory (*Paragraph [0011], [0045]*).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicants' invention to combine the teachings of Ricker and Chen because it provides an efficient way of displaying, retrieving, editing and updating an EDI documents.

4.   As per claim 17, Ricker teaches the method wherein the storing step comprises:

storing the EDI document in the memory as a document object having one or more attributes, storing any segments extracted from the EDI document as document segments in the memory each having one or more attributes, storing any transaction sets extracted from the EDI document as transaction set segments in the memory each having one or more attributes and storing any functional groups extracted from the EDI document as functional group segments in the memory each having one or more attributes (*Paragraph [0075], [0081], [0096], Page 10, Appendix Line 26*).

5.   Claims 18 and 20 are rejected under the same reasoning and rationale as claim 16.

6.   Claims 19 and 21 are rejected under the same reasoning and rationale as claim 17.

7.   As per claim 22, Ricker teaches the method further comprising:

opening up, by the user, a computer application for creating a new document (*Paragraph [00004]*);

selecting, by the user, the particular document shell from a plurality of different document shells to be used to create the new document (*Paragraph [0004], [0006]*); and

retrieving, by the computer application querying the memory, pertinent data of the EDI

document stored in the memory in order to populate the particular document shell (*Paragraph [0075]*,

Abstract).

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed on November 15, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not

persuasive. Therefore, rejection is maintained.

- In the remarks, the Applicant argues in substance that:

    a.   Ricker fails to teach storing the extracted data in a memory in a hierarchical manner.

    b.   The limitations, assigning an attribute to each of the extracted data stored in the memory

         and storing in the memory, the assigned attributes and linking the assigned attributes to

         each of the extracted data stored in the memory wherein the at least one functional group

         and the at least one transaction set extracted from the EDI document are stored in the

         memory with a common attribute are not taught by either Ricker nor Chen.

- In response to argument:

    a.   Examiner respectively disagrees. Applicant is reminded that claims must be given their

         broadest reasonable interpretation. Ricker discloses an EDI document can be inputted in its

         entirety and stored in a memory using any known input manner through a transformation

         engine (Paragraph [0075], [0096]) and representing various elements within a documents as

         a tree structure (hierarchical) within XML document (Paragraph [0059]) wherein expressing

         the same underlying data as a corresponding EDI document. Therefore, Ricker meets the

         scope of the claimed limitation.

    b.   As aforementioned, any XML document can be represented as a tree structure beginning

         with a root element in which all other elements are nested as child elements as disclosed by

         Ricker (Paragraph [0059]). I addition, Ricker discloses the definition for each element in a

         data dictionary is stored in its own XML document and can be referenced by multiple parent

         items. For example, the definitions of a Purchase Order segment and an Invoice segment

         might link to the same definition of a Shipping Address element. Consequently, when the EDI

parser determines that it needs the data dictionary for a given transaction set, it typically reads a number of documents to load the entire data dictionary definition (Paragraph [0099]). As for storing at least one functional group and at least one transaction set with a common attribute, Applicant attention is directed to Appendix (Ricker, Pages 10-13) where it shows XML generated code and the relationship among various elements within a document as well as linking different elements together. The XML generated code started with transaction description and listing a number of segments including "functional group" segment (page 13, Appendix, lines 16-19), which contains a number of transaction sets. Therefor, Ricker meets the scope of the claimed limitations. Examiner believes that amendment to the claims to explicitly distinguish the claimed subject matter would clearly define the scope of the claimed invention and possibly overcome art in record.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.
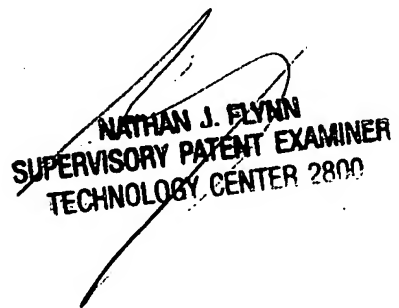
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mohamed Wasel whose telephone number is (571) 272-2669. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:00 am - 5:00 pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor,

Nathan Flynn can be reached on (571) 272-1915. The fax phone number for the organization where this

application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application

Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from

either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through

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at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MW
January 26, 2007

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